

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 20, 2013

The Jasper County Council met on this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Ronald G. Sipkema, H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donya Jordan. Mr. Sipkema called the meeting to order and Mr. Stalbaum led those present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Andree made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 23, 2013. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:** There were no additional appropriation requests for this meeting.

**TRANSFER/MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY:** Jean Witherington, Highway Department Bookkeeper was present for this department request to transfer \$100.00 from Supplies-Freight and Express Line to Other Services and Charges-Other Contract and Misc. Line Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve and Mr. Stalbaum seconded. This motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**INNKEEPER'S TAX:** The motion made at the Council Meeting on July 23, 2013 stated to leave the Ordinance for the Innkeeper's Tax as is and needed to be clarified in the minutes so there would be no confusion as to what the council actually intended the original motion to be. Councilman Price stated his motion as "To exclude campsites from the collection of the innkeeper's tax and to return the money to the campgrounds we inadvertently collected this tax from." Mr. Bontreger seconded this motion and this motion passed with Mr. Jordan abstaining from voting because of his interest in the Jasper County Fair Association.

**KATHY O'NEALL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:** Kathy O'Neill was present to inform the Council of her retirement on September 3, 2013. There will be a caucus held at a later date. Christine Haskell who was also present is hopeful she will be Mrs. O'Neill's replacement to fulfill the remainder of her current term. Mrs. O'Neill has worked as the Jasper County Prosecutor or Chief Prosecutor for twenty three years. Congratulations to Kathy on her retirement.

**DAN PERKINS, JASPER COUNTY WATERSHED AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST-WATERSHED GRANT:** Dan Perkins gave a brief update on a grant Jasper County received in 2009. This grant was to clean up the water in the Iroquois River to prevent mandates from IDEM and to keep the Iroquois River off of the dirty water list. He was present at this meeting to ask for a letter of support from the council for a \$200,000.00 grant he is working on and hoping to receive. This grant, if received will be to clean the water in the Curtis and Carpenter Creeks. Mr. Price made a motion to support this project. Councilman Bontreger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**SHARON COLEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JASPER COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.:** Mrs. Colee was present to update the council on the new Remington Community Services Center and to request a onetime amount of \$30,000.00 to help finance the renovation of the new building. The center is now located in the Remington Lion's Club Building and really doesn't meet the needs required. The Town of Remington has been gifted a building through the generosity of a community benefactor to be used as a senior center. The Jasper County Commissioners gave their approval for this project at their August 5, 2013 meeting and asked Mrs. Colee to present her request to the council. JCCS will be responsible for the funding of the operation, staffing, programs, equipment and general use of the building. Councilman Price made a motion to move forward with the funding of this project and Mr. Bontreger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**LOCAL OPTION INCOME TAX RATES:** President Sipkema spoke to the council concerning the high income tax rate for Jasper County which is the second highest in the state. Pulaski County has the highest rate. The council then discussed reducing the Local Option Income Tax Property Tax Replacement Credit Rate. The council approved collecting their increase in their budget (LOIT A) through property taxes at their meeting in July which the taxpayers may see a slight increase in the property taxes. The council would like to see the total income tax rate for Jasper County below three percent (3%). Mr. DeVries made a motion to reduce the LOIT-PTRC rate to .95%. Mr. Andree seconded this motion and motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bontreger made a motion to keep the distribution the same as in the past (to all taxpayers) Mr. Stalbaum seconded this motion and motion passed unanimously.



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Councilman Jordan made a motion to leave the Public Safety rate at one quarter of a percent (.25%). Mr. Stalbaum seconded. This motion also carried unanimously.

**JAIL SPECIAL CAGIT RATE:** The council can reduce this rate which would be a win for everyone in Jasper County. The current rate is one quarter of a percent and the county collects approximately \$1,600,000.00 a year. This money is used to make the payments on the jail bond and to help fund the operations and maintenance of the detention center. This rate can be reduced to 0.20 of a percent or 0.15 of a percent. By state statute it can't be reduced any lower than the 0.15% or eliminated until the bond is paid off and this can't be done until 2017. By reducing this rate Jasper County will still receive enough money to support the jail payments and some jail expenses. This reduction will not increase property taxes and there will be a decrease in what is withheld from the residents of Jasper County's paychecks. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to set the Jail Special CAGIT Rate at 0.15 of a percent with Mr. Price seconding this motion. This motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING-2014 BUDGET HEARING:** President Siphkema opened the public hearing for the 2014 Budget Hearing with the following budget requests:

GENERAL					\$ 11,382,942.00
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE					\$ 33,139.00
REASSESSMENT					\$ 201,600.00
JAIL-SPECIAL CAGIT					\$ 1,463,075.00
CEDIT					\$ 1,590,390.00
CLERK'S PERPETUATION					\$ 5,383.00
PROJECT INCOME					\$ 337,903.00
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE					\$ 1,000,000.00
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT					\$ 945,558.00
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT					\$ 1,000,000.00
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES					\$ 654,470.00
LEPC					\$ 6,000.00
EXTRADITION					\$ 15,000.00
HEALTH					\$ 314,802.00
LOCAL ROAD AND STREET					\$ 600,000.00
PUBLIC SAFETY					\$ 1,347,939.00
HIGHWAY					\$ 5,885,170.00
DEFERRAL AND DIVERSION					\$ 19,206.00
RECORDER PERPETUATION					\$ 38,754.00
SURVEYOR'S CORNER PERPETUATION					\$ 11,000.00
STATEWIDE 911					\$ 633,086.00
PARTNER'S DRUG FREE					\$ 598.00
LOCAL HEALTH TRUST					\$ 20,739.00
SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION					\$ 135,000.00
WORK RELEASE					\$ 26,000.00
SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE PROBATION					\$ 19,200.00
CAGIT CERTIFIED SHARES					\$ 3,500,000.00
USER FEES					\$ 144,500.00
DONATION WARNING SIRENS					\$ 8,000.00
					\$ 31,339,454.00

There was no public comment on the 2014 Proposed Budget.

2014 Budget Requests:

Sheriff Risner presented his 2014 Budget Requests for the Sheriff's Budget, Jail Budget, E911 Budget, Public Safety Budget, CEDIT Budget, Cumulative Capital Development, CAGIT Special Legislation and Partner's Drug Free.

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Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to continue the August 20, 2013 meeting and the 2014 Budget Public Hearing to Monday, August 26, 2013 at 8:30 A.M.

Monday, August 26, 2013 (continued meeting)

The Jasper County Council met with all of the other public officials and department heads to listen to their budget requests for 2014.

Tuesday, August 27, 2013 (continued meeting)

Starting at 8:15 A.M., council met to discuss the budget requests cuts and raises.

Kendell Culp, President of the Board of Jasper County Commissioners was present to discuss the issue of the Jasper County Youth Center. Gibault had a five year contract with the county which they don't want to renew and will be closing the doors at the end of September. There is an interested party that may want to take over the center at the beginning of 2014. The county officials need to decide whether they want to fund the youth center until the end of the year. Council Attorney Monfort and Mr. Culp will research and update the council at their September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Price seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

  
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Ronald G. Sipkema, President  
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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County